

Murphy-Dannelly House
410 Delta Street
Jefferson
Marion County
Texas

HABS No. TEX-148

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PHOTOGRAPHS
WRITTEN HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA

Historic American Buildings Survey
Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation
National Park Service
Department of the Interior
Washington, D.C. 20240

HISTORIC AMERICAN BUILDINGS SURVEY

HABS No. TEX-148

MURPHY-DANNELLY HOUSE

Location: 410 Delta Street, southwest corner of the intersection of Delta and Main Streets, Jefferson, Marion County, Texas.

Present Owner: Mrs. M. C. Dannelly

Present Occupants: Mrs. M. C. Dannelly; Mr. and Mrs. A. K. Payne

Present Use: Residence

Statement of Significance: As originally constructed, this house was typical of two-story residences built in east Texas in the mid-nineteenth century.

PART I. HISTORICAL INFORMATION

A. Physical History:

1. Date of erection: Between 1850 and 1860 (based on change in property values); probably in 1851 (information from Mrs. A. K. Payne).
2. Architect: Unknown.
3. Original and subsequent owners: Bartholomew Figures purchased the lots in 1850 (Marion County Deed Book 2, p. 5). There were several owners between this time and the time that Adin Powell purchased the property in 1862 (Marion County Deed Book B, p. 414). In 1864, John C. Murphy purchased the property (Marion County Deed Book C, p. 130). It remained in this family until 1919 when T. D. Rowell acquired it (Marion County Deed Book R-1, p. 204). In 1936, the present owner Mrs. M. C. Dannelly purchased the house (interview with present owner).
4. Alterations and additions: The house originally had a two-story porch extending across the rear. In c. 1864 a two-story, gabled ell, which became a dining room, was added to the southwest corner. The porch was extended along the east side of the ell.

In 1951, the house underwent fairly extensive alteration. The second-floor balcony under the portico was removed and the double door which opened onto it was replaced by two small windows illuminating the bathroom added at

the north end of the stairhall. The eight superimposed columns of the portico were replaced by four slender two-story columns. The exterior walls were covered with asbestos siding, and a one-story kitchen wing was added to the west. Interior chimneys and fireplaces were removed and replaced by closets. Half of the second story of the rear porch was enclosed to make an upstairs kitchen and bathroom.

B. Sources of Information:

Marion County Deed Books.

Interview with present owner.

PART II. ARCHITECTURAL INFORMATION

A. General Statement:

1. Architectural character: The central-hall type plan of this two-story structure is typical of the region. As originally constructed, the two-story tiered portico on the front and full length porch on the back were common characteristics of southern residential architecture.
2. Condition of fabric: Good.

B. Description of Exterior:

1. Over-all dimensions: The main section of the house is 51'-7" (five-bay front) by 35'-8". A wing to the south-west extends the west wall of the house 23'-4" and is 21'-3" wide. The recent one-story addition to the west measures 14' by 20'-4".
2. Foundations: Brick piers.
3. Wall construction, finish and color: The frame walls are constructed from sawn timbers. Originally they were covered on the exterior with $\frac{1}{2}$ " by 6" cypress clapboards with 4- $\frac{1}{2}$ " to the weather. In 1951, these were covered with asbestos shingles.
4. Porches: The front portico originally had a second-floor level. Both levels had low railings with closely spaced balusters. The supporting columns, four on each level, had simple wooden moldings. The second-story balcony has been removed and the portico roof is now supported by four two-story square columns resting on plinths.

A two-story porch originally extended across the entire rear of the house. When the southwest wing was added, a two-story porch was built along its east side which formed an ell with the east half of the original porch. In 1951 the second floor of the original porch was enclosed.

5. Chimneys: Originally there were two interior chimneys. These were removed in 1951.
6. Openings:
 - a. Doorways and doors: Originally there were four exterior doorways located at either end of the central stairhall on both floors. The second floor door to the north balcony was removed in 1951. All the doorways are identical with double, four-panel doors, nine-pane straight transoms, and five-pane sidelights with wooden panels beneath. The openings are trimmed with moldings. Two minor doors open from the southwest wing onto the rear porch. They have two wooden panels and glass lights. The recent kitchen wing has a door on the south.
 - b. Windows: Windows are double-hung, six-over-six lights. Decorative, non-operative shutters are recent additions.
7. Exterior stairway: The exterior stairway is located on the rear porch adjacent to the southwest wing. It is a straight run with square newel, square balusters, and enclosed stringers.
8. Roof:
 - a. Shape, covering: The main block and wings have gabled roofs. There is a hipped roof over the front porch. Asphalt shingles now cover the original wooden shingles.
 - b. Framing: The roofs are framed with 2" by 6" joists.
 - c. Cornice: The gable ends of the roof are nearly flush with the walls. Two 3/4" boards make the transition from roof to wall. Along the draining edges of the roof there is a simple box cornice without moldings.

C. Description of Interior

1. Floor plans: The main section of this two-story house has a central hall with two rooms on each side. The second floor plan has the same basic arrangement.

The first floor of the southwest wing now contains utility spaces and a bedroom. On the second floor of this wing there is a small kitchen and a bedroom.

A single-story addition on the west now contains the main kitchen.

2. Stairways: The interior stairway to the second floor is located in the central hall. It is a single-run type with an octagonal newel, turned balusters, and molded handrail. Several moldings decorate the wall stringer.
3. Flooring: Vertical-grain, tongue-and-groove pine, 5" wide, was used throughout the house.
4. Wall and ceiling finish: The wooden-frame walls were covered with pine boards, 7" wide. These were then finished with wallpaper. The ceiling is wooden with a wallpaper finish.
5. Doorways and doors: Four-panel, wooden doors were used throughout the house except for two small storage rooms under the stairways where two-panel, wooden doors were used.
6. Trim: Trim is mostly plain throughout. However, the drawing room door and window casings are elaborately molded.
7. Hardware: Iron butts, iron locksets with porcelain knobs.
8. Lighting: Modern electrical fixtures.
9. Heating: Fireplaces have been removed. Gas heat is now used.

D. Site and Surroundings:

1. General setting and orientation: The front door faces north.
2. Walks, driveways, etc.: One concrete walk from Delta Street is of recent date.
3. Landscaping, gardens, etc.: Several large trees exist around the house.

Prepared by Willard B. Robinson, AIA
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National Park Service
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PART III. PROJECT INFORMATION

These records were made in 1966 during a summer project financed by the National Park Service to record 16 structures in Jefferson and the near-by area. The summer recording team received the cooperation of numerous citizens and organizations who provided office space, lodgings, board, and research assistance. Among the cooperators were the Dan Lester Drilling Company, the Excelsior Hotel, Mrs. A. K. Payne, the Jessie Allen Wise Garden Club, and the Marion County Chamber of Commerce.

The project was under the direction of A. Lewis Koue of the Historic American Buildings Survey's Western Office in San Francisco. Supervisor of the recording team was Willard B. Robinson, AIA, of Texas Technological College. The team was composed of student architects David L. Bouse of the University of Nebraska, Bob J. Fong of the University of Idaho, Donald Quackenbush of Washington State University, and Robert M. Swanson of the University of Texas. Photographs were made by National Park Service Photographer, Jack E. Boucher.